

Message Text

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NSC - MR. SOLOMON

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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 199870 TOSEC 100031

EXDIS FOR S/S: PLEASE CLEAR WITH MR. LORD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A), OEXC, CH, US

SUBJECT: ACTION MEMORANDUM - PRC ATTEMPT TO EXCLUDE
PUERTO RICAN MAYOR FROM US MAYORS DELEGATION (S/S NO.
7516836)

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM EA - J. OWEN ZURHELLEN, JR.

1. THE PROBLEM.

IN ACTION RELATED TO PUERTO RICAN VOTE ISSUE, PRCLO
INFORMED THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON US-CHINA RELATIONS
(NCUSCR) AUGUST 21 THAT IT WOULD BE "INCONVENIENT" FOR THE
PRC TO RECEIVE THE MAYOR OF SAN JUAN WITH THE US MAYORS
GROUP SCHEDULED TO VISIT PRC SEPT 15-29. THIS CONSTITUTES
A SERIOUS VIOLATION OF THE PRINCIPLE THAT EACH SIDE HAS THE
RIGHT TO DETERMINE THE COMPOSITION OF GROUPS PARTICIPATING
IN THE EXCHANGE PROGRAM AND DIRECTLY CONFLICTS WITH BUSH
DEMARCHE IN PEKING AUGUST 16 EMPHASIZING THAT PUERTO RICO
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WAS US INTERNAL AFFAIR. WE BELIEVE MAYORS WILL STAND FIRM
AND RECOMMEND THAT WE ENCOURAGE THEM TO PRESENT UNITED
FRONT IN OPPOSING CHINESE ACTION, EVEN AT RISK OF
CANCELLING VISIT. AN URGENT DECISION IS REQUIRED BECAUSE

OF DIFFICULT LIAISON PROBLEM INVOLVED.

2. BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS.

THE US MAYORS DELEGATION ORGANIZED BY THE NCUSCR IS SCHEDULED TO VISIT THE PRC SEPTEMBER 15-29 AS PART OF THE USG-FACILITATED EXCHANGES. MANY MAYORS PLAN TO DEPART EARLY TO ATTEND CONFERENCE IN JAPAN. DELEGATION, WHICH INCLUDES 14 MAYORS, IS HEADED BY MAYOR ALIOTO OF SAN FRANCISCO, WITH MAYOR CARLOS ROMERO-BARCELO OF SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO AS DEPUTY LEADER. PRC HAS KNOWN SAN JUAN MAYOR WAS MEMBER OF GROUP SINCE APRIL 4. MAYOR LYMAN PARKS OF GRAND RAPIDS MICHIGAN, THE PRESIDENT'S HOME TOWN, IS ALSO MEMBER OF GROUP.

PRCLO COUNSELOR HSIEH INFORMED THE NCUSCR AUGUST 21 THAT A PROBLEM HAD ARISEN DUE TO THE "SPECIAL CONDITIONS" SURROUNDING PUERTO RICO AT THIS TIME AND THAT THE PRC FINDS IT "INCONVENIENT" TO RECEIVE THE MAYOR OF SAN JUAN WITH THE MAYORS' GROUP. NCUSCR REPRESENTATIVE EXPRESSED REGRET AT CHINESE POSITION, NOTED THAT SAN JUAN MAYOR, WHO ALSO CHAIRMAN OF LEAGUE OF CITIES, WAS CHOSEN FOR GROUP BY US CONFERENCE OF MAYORS BECAUSE OF HIS STATURE AND EMINENCE, AND POINTED OUT THAT PUERTO RICO IS LEGITIMATE PART OF US.

AT LEAST THREE PRINCIPLES ARE INVOLVED. WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY MAINTAINED THAT POLITICAL ISSUES SHOULD NOT BE INJECTED INTO THE EXCHANGE PROGRAM. THIS WAS OUR BASIS FOR FORCING CANCELLATION OF PRC PERFORMING ARTS GROUP THIS SPRING OVER INCLUSION OF SONG CALLING FOR LIBERATION OF TAIWAN. SECONDLY, WE HAVE INSISTED THAT EACH SIDE HAD THE RIGHT TO SELECT THE COMPOSITION OF ITS GROUPS. WE SUCCESSFULLY UPHELD THIS PRINCIPLE IN CASE OF UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR (FRITZ MOTE) WHOM CHINESE TRIED TO EXCLUDE FROM EXCHANGE GROUP ONLY TO BACK DOWN WHEN GROUP THREATENED CANCELLATION IF MOTE NOT INCLUDED. CONFIDENTIAL

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THIRDLY, BUSH HAS JUST MADE DEMARCHE IN PEKING ON PUERTO RICAN ISSUE, EMPHASIZING POINT THAT PUERTO RICO IS US INTERNAL MATTER AND THAT US-PRC RELATIONS WOULD BE AFFECTED IF PRC SUPPORTED CUBAN RESOLUTION IN COMMITTEE OF 24. IT IS A MOOT POINT WHETHER THE POSITION CONVEYED BY HSIEH REPRESENTS A DIRECT PRC RESPONSE TO OUR STRONG REPRESENTATION IN PEKING AUGUST 16 ON WHETHER IT IS A MORE GENERAL OUTGROWTH OF THE ATTENTION FOCUSED ON THE PUERTO RICAN ISSUE AS A RESULT OF ITS CONSIDERATION IN THE COMMITTEE OF 24.

3. THE OPTIONS

THERE ARE TWO SETS OF DECISIONS WE MUST MAKE, THE FIRST PROCEDURAL AND THE SECOND SUBSTANTIVE.

PROCEDURAL

A. WE COULD PROVIDE ADVICE AND GUIDANCE TO THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE BUT LEAVE IT ESSENTIALLY TO THE COMMITTEE AND THE MAYORS GROUP TO DEAL WITH THE CHINESE ON THE ISSUE.

B. AFTER CONSULTING WITH THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE AND THE MAYORS GROUP, WE COULD WEIGH IN WITH THE CHINESE OURSELVES EITHER IN SUPPORT OF THEIR EFFORTS OR AS THE SOLE POINT OF CONTACT.

SUBSTANTIVE

C. WE COULD WEIGH IN WITH THE CHINESE BUT IF THE CHINESE REMAIN ADAMANT, AND THE MAYORS ARE PREPARED TO GO ALONG, ULTIMATELY ACQUIESCE IN THE EXCLUSION OF THE SAN JUAN MAYOR AND PERMIT THE VISIT TO PROCEED.

D. WE COULD TAKE THE POSITION FROM THE BEGINNING THAT THE VISIT WILL NOT TAKE PLACE IF PRC INSISTS ON EXCLUDING SAN JUAN MAYOR.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS.

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WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD PROCEED IN TERMS OF OPTIONS A AND D, WHILE HOLDING OPTION B IN ABEYANCE FOR THE TIME BEING. EA AND CU AGREE THAT WE CANNOT PERMIT THE PRC TO EXERCISE A VETO OVER THE COMPOSITION OF OUR EXCHANGE DELEGATIONS. SOLOMON HAS CHECKED WITH SCOWCROFT WHO FULLY SHARES THIS VIEW. THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE'S PRELIMINARY REACTION IS ALSO ADAMANT ON OPPOSING THE PRC INTERVENTION. THE INTRODUCTION OF THE PUERTO RICAN FACTOR ONLY REINFORCES THIS POSITION.

WE ANTICIPATE THAT THE MAYORS WILL SHARE THIS VIEW AND WILL SUPPORT THE NECESSITY OF INSISTING ON MAYOR ROMERO-BARCELO'S INCLUSION IN THE GROUP. ON THIS ASSUMPTION, WE CONSIDER IT DESIRABLE FOR THE MAYORS THEMSELVES TO TAKE THE LEAD IN CONVEYING THIS POSITION TO THE CHINESE. OUR GUESS IS MAYOR ALIOTO, WHO HAS DEVELOPED A GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH AMBASSADOR HUANG CHEN AS A RESULT OF THE PRC ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXHIBITION'S TOUR IN SAN

FRANCISCO, MAY WISH TO INTERVENE PERSONALLY WITH AMBASSADOR HUANG.

IF YOU APPROVE, THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE WILL DISCUSS
THE PROBLEM WITH THE MAYORS ALONG THESE LINES, WHILE WE
WILL PROVIDE DISCREET SUPPORT AS NEEDED. SINCE MAYORS
MUST BE APPROACHED IN ANY EVENT, THERE WILL ALWAYS BE
DANGER OF PRESS LEAK, WHICH COULD FREEZE PRC POSITION.
ACCORDINGLY, WE WILL IMPRESS ON ALL CONCERNED THE NEED
FOR CONFIDENTIALITY UNTIL MATTER RESOLVED.

SINCE ABOVE STEPS WILL REQUIRE COORDINATION WITH
LARGE NUMBER OF MAYORS IN VARIOUS PARTS OF COUNTRY, WE
HOPE YOU CAN PROVIDE IMMEDIATE DECISION.

APPROVE OPTIONS A AND D

APPROVE OTHER OPTIONS

DISAPPROVE

CLEARED WITH CU/EA:MR. NICHOLS AND NSC:MR. SOLOMAN. MAW
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